

departments to which I shall refer when the time comes. There is carried on, as respects these departments, a kind of non-co-operation both inside and outside. If the present Chief Engineer does not do his work well it will be our duty to see that proper action is taken in the matter. But if there is any attempt to pit him on the part of the lower subordinates, they will be visited with condign punishment.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I may be permitted to say a word. I hear it stated that there is a campaign going on on the floor of this House in order to malign the honourable the Chief Engineer

PRESIDENT : Order, order. No, I am sorry to say the honourable member is perhaps still in the memory of his yesterday's speech; that is not the idea of what I said. There is a general tendency on the part of the subordinates to take it for granted that everything that goes wrong round them is due to the Chief Engineer. I do not hold a brief for Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan. If honourable members can find out that he is guilty of laches or delay, it is their duty to say and to see to it that Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan is dealt with in the way he deserves. But I find that a number of complaints have been made with the commission of which, I believe, many officers of the department are in touch, considering the exact nature of the complaints by the Executive Engineers and their subordinates throughout the State which reached us through indirect channels. I do not accuse the honourable members of this House. I would not accuse them, because this House is a House of correction. If the honourable official members go wrong, this House should point out that. But now I was referring to the state of indiscipline to which the complainants have gone. It is one thing for the Chief Engineer to go wrong. It is another thing for the assistant or the Executive Engineers to go about and ask people to talk to me about the way in which they have been badly treated, or the rudeness with which they have been treated. I found that those very persons were responsible for framing the charges. As a matter of fact, in one case when a contractor had quoted particular rates, he was asked to increase the rates by the departmental officers. Thus there is a deliberate kind of non-co-operation and, I think, if this is so, it will be resisted by the Government.

The tank in front of the M. M. Boys' School, Adoor.

118. * **MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN :** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have taken any steps towards walling up (embanking) of the sides of the above tank, though the matter was agitated by me through this Assembly for the last two years;

(b) whether the Chief Engineer has ever visited the place and submitted any report; and

[MR. M. K. Nilakantan.]

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the tank is the only resort for the bath of the people at Adoor, and that the tank serves the irrigation purpose of about 2,000 paras of paddy fields lying to the south of it?

DEWAN BEHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (a) Yes, an estamite has been prepared

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

Field Officers and Warden in Field under Uplift Department.

119 * MR. BRAHMAPURAM P. YESUDIAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appointments of three more field officers proposed to be made to assist the Protector of Backward Communities have been effected;

(b) if so, whether they were selected from among the backward communities;

(c) whether they have received any representations for the appointment of clerks to assist the field officers and also to be in charge of the offices while they are absent at their headquarters either on leave or on circuit;

(d) whether they are aware of the fact that the residence and office of the field officers are housed in one and the same building;

(e) whether they are aware of the fact that there are considerable inconveniences to the members of the backward communities in having the office and residence of the field officers in one and the same building;

(f) whether they have received any representations proposing that the field officers should be given status and powers like that of a Tahsildar; and

(g) if so, what action has been taken by them in the matter?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) No.

(b) In the light of the above the question does not arise.

(c) No.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: May I know the amount estimated and the time involved?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: The amount is Rs.2,950. The estimate has not yet reached the Executive Engineer from the Sub Division Officer. I am sending him a reminder.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: Is it a new one or one long pending?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: No, Sir. The estimate has been called for. The Executive Engineer in his recent reply has stated that it has not been received from the Sub Division Officer.